



Census and Economic Information Center

Montana Department of Commerce

Release Highlights: March 23, 2005

MONTANA

Information, 2002 Economic Census, Geographic Area Series

<http://ceic.mt.gov/EconCen.htm>

Montana's **Information** sector, comprised of publishing, motion picture, broadcasting, telecommunications and Internet services industries, added nearly 2,300 employees between 1997 and 2002, increasing to 9,357, a 32% increase. Payroll grew even more impressively at 47%, from \$177 million to \$261 million. In 1997, only 568 establishments in Montana were engaged in the Information sector. By 2002, 65 more Information establishments, for a total of 633, gave Montanans more alternatives for producing and distributing information and for processing data.

The expressions "information age" and "global information economy" are used with considerable frequency today. The general idea of an "information economy" includes the notion of industries primarily producing, processing, and distributing information, as well as the idea that every industry is using available information and information technology to reorganize and make themselves more productive. In Montana, the transformation to the "information age" is visible when comparing 1997 to 2002.

In 1997, 54% of the establishments were in the traditional industries of newspaper, periodical, and book publishing, motion picture and sound recordings, and TV and radio broadcasting. Fifty-seven percent of the Information employees fell into this category as well.

By 2002, 50% of establishments provided telecommunications services such as wireless, satellite, and cable plus were either Internet service providers, produced web search portals, supplied data processing services, did Internet publishing, or provided other Information services. Over 5,000 of the 9,357 employees work in Montana's 'new information economy.'

The Information sector (sector 51) groups three types of establishments: (1) those engaged in producing and distributing information and cultural products; (2) those that provide the means to transmit or distribute these products as well as data or communications; and (3) those that process data.

For firms with payroll, the Geographic Area Series reports provide general statistics on number of establishments, receipts, expenses of tax-exempt establishments, payroll, and employment by kind of business for the state, metropolitan, and micropolitan statistical areas, counties and places with 2,500 inhabitants or more.

Total receipts for the Information sector are, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, "not available or not comparable" at the state level. Economic Census staff explain that a multi-establishment company cannot always identify where its receipts are coming from, therefore company-wide rather than establishment-by-establishment receipts figures were accepted. Thus only national level receipts are published.

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